



Website Evaluation

Or How do I know they know what I want to know?

Look at the url first!

Red Flag #1

ARE THEY TRYING TO SELL YOU
SOMETHING!!!!!!



Does it appear as an ad right away? If so, skip it.
Is it from Amazon? Google books? If so, skip it.
Amazon and Google books are not interested in giving
away free, credible information. They want you to buy
something from them.

Red Flag #2

Is it from an answer site like . . .

answers.yahoo.com

ask.com

askville.amazon

If so, Disregard these right away. There is no way of knowing who these responders are. They're just people trolling sites and giving out their two cents worth.



Red Flag #3



Are there pop ups? (This is less and less of an issue as anti pop up software becomes better and better)

Are there ads within the site or does the site ask for donations?

Not automatically a bad thing either way but take notice.

Red Flag #4

Is it someone's Blog?

Does the word blog appear in the url?

These are the common person's easiest way to get onto the internet. They may not be appropriate for academic research because we don't know how truly knowledgeable that person is.

Are there extreme statements? Absolutes?



Red Flag #5

Anonymity: Both a strength and weakness of the whole internet.

If someone hides behind a pseudonym or doesn't put their name on something, BE WARY of it.

Consider these sites: What does the “Contact Us” or “About Us” say?

<http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com/index.html>

<http://american3rdposition.com/>

<http://www.splcenter.org/>



So, where does that leave wikipedia?
well, let's do some research about it

<http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/wikipedia-founder-discourages-academic-use-of-his-creation/2305>

Let's fill out the Website Evaluation Worksheet together



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

And, finally, how to cite it

If you're on the internet anyway, go to a citation machine like easybib.com and fill out as much missing information as possible

<http://www.easybib.com/>

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